

REMARKS

By this paper, claims 25-35 have been canceled and new claims 36-39 have been added to the present application. Claims 1-24 and 36-39 are now pending.

It is again respectfully submitted that the Drasler et al. patent (6,245,101) does not teach the "at least a pair of adjacent longitudinal members each having a circumferential width, wherein the radial thickness is greater than the circumferential width" which is recited in independent claim 1. As such, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims including new claims 36-39 define patentable subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

FULWIDER PATTON LEE & UTECHT, LLP

By: John V. Hanley
John V. Hanley
Registration No. 38,171

JVH/kst
Howard Hughes Center
6060 Center Drive, Tenth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90045
Telephone: (310) 824-5555
Facsimile: (310) 824-9696
Customer No. 24201
83870.1